

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JUNE 24, 2013
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
C14H-1981-0017
Burt House
612 W. 22nd Street

PROPOSAL

Construct a new perimeter fence around the front and sides of the house.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The applicant proposes to replace a deteriorated 4-foot wooden picket fence with a 6-foot metal picket fence with undulating pickets and finials. At the front walk entrance, there will be a gate in the fence. The proposed fence will be painted black.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The Commission's Standards for Review of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness include:

- Do not destroy the distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment. Avoid the removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features.
- Recognize all buildings, structures, and sites as products of their own time. Do not construct alterations which have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance.
- Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties are appropriate when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historic, architectural, or cultural material and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.
- Construct new additions or alterations to structures in such a manner that if such addition or alteration were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure will be unimpaired.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended a fence height of no more than 4 feet, as that has been the norm for front fences at historic landmark properties.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Allow a height of 5 feet for the open picket fence, which staff believes is a reasonable height.

Steve,

We have considered lowering ,However, my understanding is that there were two committee members stated that would compromise at 5'-0" 66% and there was only one committee 33% that wanted a 4'-0" fence.

I'm not interested in a 4'-0" fence. It would not accomplish what we need in terms of safety and security. I would just be spending money for aesthetic reasons. Currently, our fence is at 4'-3", so with 4'-0", we would be actually be lowering our fence height.

There are many vagrants and homeless in the area. They take it upon themselves to take rests and actually sleep on the Front Porch. I have personally witnessed this many, many times and it is not very safe for myself or my employees when we are working late at night.

We are very interested in a compromise at 5'-0" which is what 66% of the vote was at. We have also surveyed 7 other Historic properties on the Historic Landmark Properties list situated along Nueces, Rio Grande and West and of these 7, all had fences from 5'-4" up to 7'-1". One of these properties was the Caswell House with a fence at 5'-7".

We believe a 5'-0" compromise per 66% of the vote is something that we can live with.

Rick Blanch with my office will forward our documentation on the 7 mentioned properties as well as information on the gate.

Sincerely,

Mari Rodriguez Barr, AIA President
Rodriguez Barr Inc., dba, The Barr Company, AIA



THE BARR
COMPANY, AIA

www.TheBarrCompany.Com | 612A West 22nd Street, Austin, Texas 78705 | (512) 474-4222 | Fax (512) 474-4203

A REPRESENTATIVE GALLERY OF
ARCHITECTURAL METAL FENCES
OVER 5 FEET AT AUSTIN
HISTORIC LANDMARK HOUSES
NEAR 22nd AND RIO GRANDE

PRESENTED TO THE CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
IN SUPPORT OF A **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

FOR

Project: NEW ARCHITECTURAL METAL FENCE & GATE
at
612 West 22nd Street, Austin, TX 78705

Prepared by
The Barr Company, AIA



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COMPANY, AIA**

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SUMMARY

The Barr Company, AIA is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the white 4'-3" picket fence facing 22nd Street and the front yard portion that faces Rio Grande Street with a 6'-0" high black architectural metal fence and gate. We have had considerable vandalism to the fence pickets. We have observed the pickets being kicked off and used as swords as in medieval times. They get broken, taken from the property and are hard to keep intact even with screws. Safety is another concern. There is a significant homeless problem in the area. Where the city has installed metal benches, they congregate, sometimes from 4 to 8 at a time. We have observed them many times sleeping on our front porch which is a concern when employees work into the night. The higher fence would keep people from attempting to climb over the fence. The gate would be locked at night, but open during the day, keeping the gates open as well as unlocked.

At the informal meeting held in May, we were asked to accept a 4'-0" high fence, but because of security and safety, we are reluctant to do so. To document that a higher than 4'-0" front yard fence is common with houses on the Historic Landmark List that have front yard fences in this vicinity, we photographed 7 houses and noted these measurements:

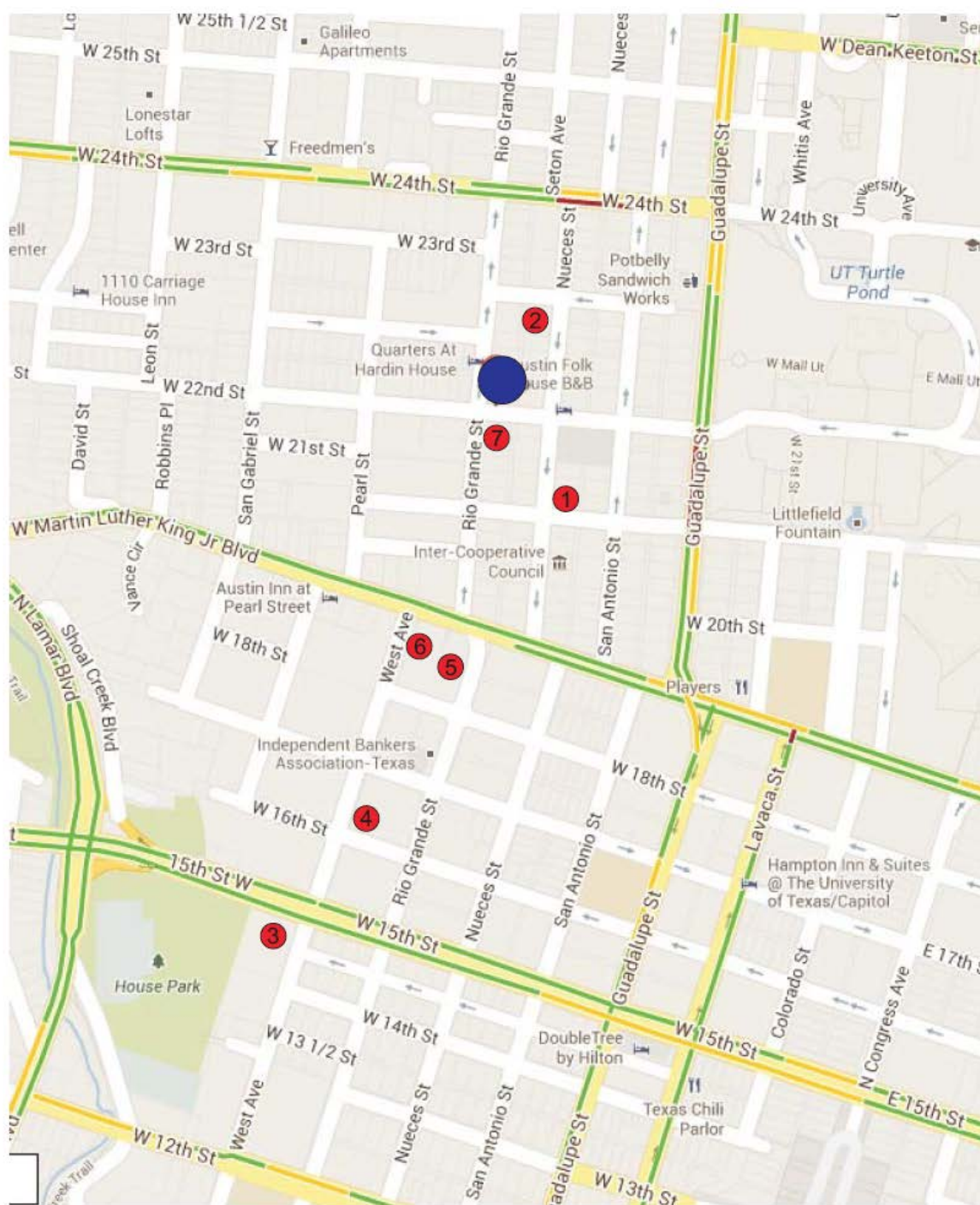
1. 2101 Nueces Street	7'-0"
2. 2212 Nueces Street	5'-5"
3. 1404 West Avenue	5'-7" (The Caswell House)
4. 712 W. 16 th Street	5'-9 ¾" (Varies between 63" and 69")
5. 1806 Rio Grande Street	6'-1"
6. 1803 West Avenue	7'-1"
7. 611 W. 22 nd Street	5'-4 ½" (Across the street from our Office)

The attached photos have one photo of the fence with the full tape measure and the following photo is a closeup at the top of the fence showing the fence top next to the tape measure. In each case, the column heights, whether masonry or metal, are disregarded in the fence height..

At the informal meeting, it was proposed that a compromise for a 5'-0" fence height be considered. There was some discussion on this proposal, and, although we are submitting on a 6'-0" high fence, we would accept the Commission's recommendation of a 5'-0" high fence if it were formally offered.

For easy location of the gate to a visitor, it has a curved top panel that would rise approximately 8" higher at the gate middle than the fence. The proposed design of the gate is included at the back of this booklet.

We are available to answer any questions the Historical Commission may have.



House Locations

- ## House Locations

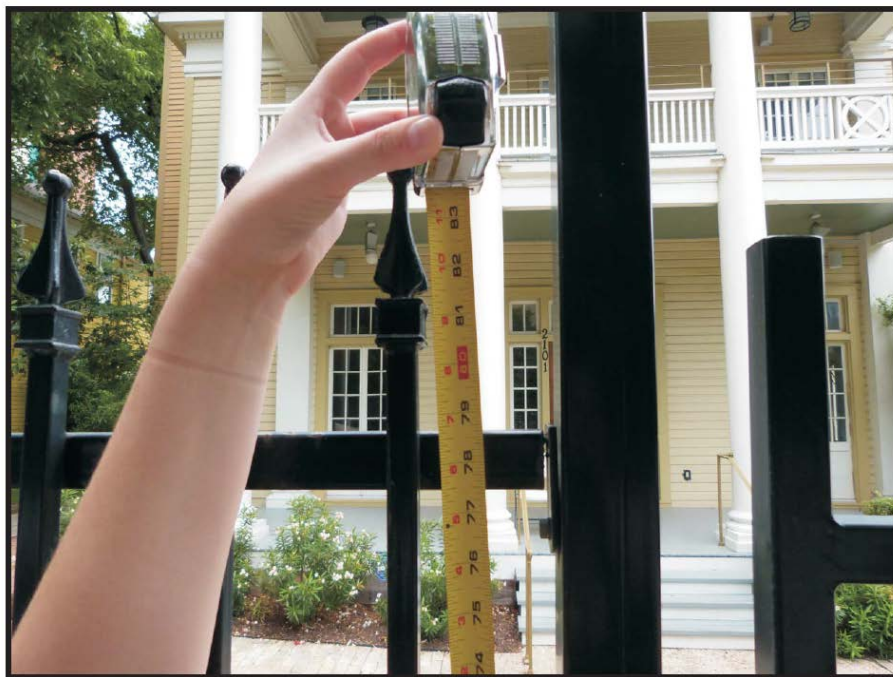
 The Barr Company, AIA
612 West 22nd Street

 - 1 2101 Nueces Street
 - 2 2212 Nueces Street
 - 3 1404 West Avenue
 - 4 712 W. 16th Street
 - 5 1806 Rio Grande Street
 - 6 1803 West Avenue
 - 7 611 W. 22nd Street



2101 Nueces Street

Morgan House

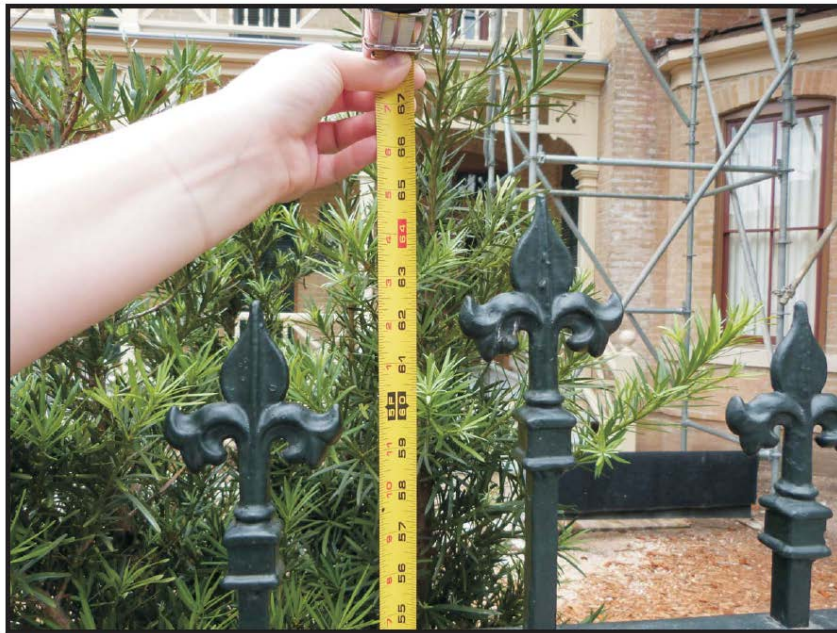


7'-0" (84")



2212 Nueces Street

Gerhard - Schoch House



5'-5" (65")



1404 West Avenue

The Caswell House

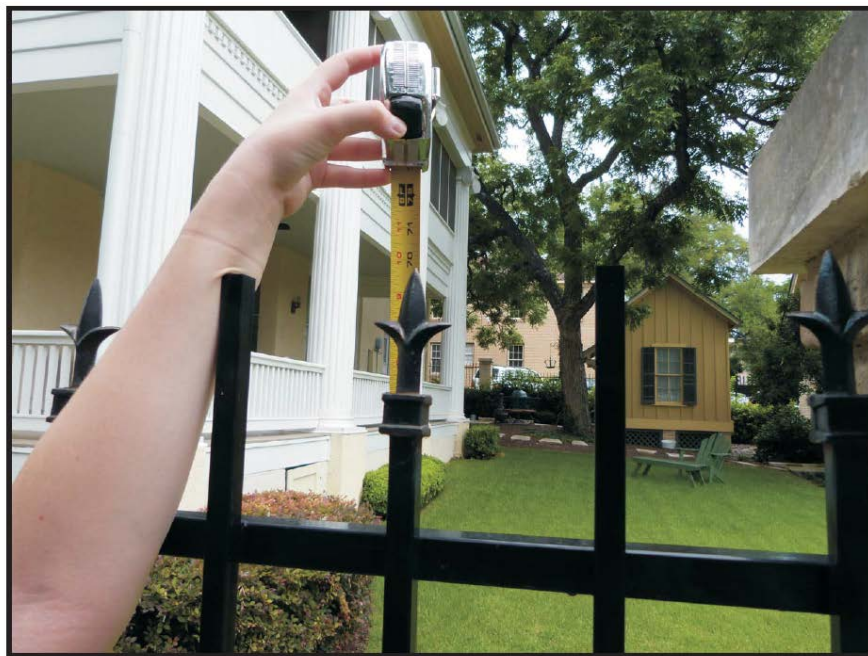


5'-7" (67")



712 W. 16th Street

Herblin Shoe House

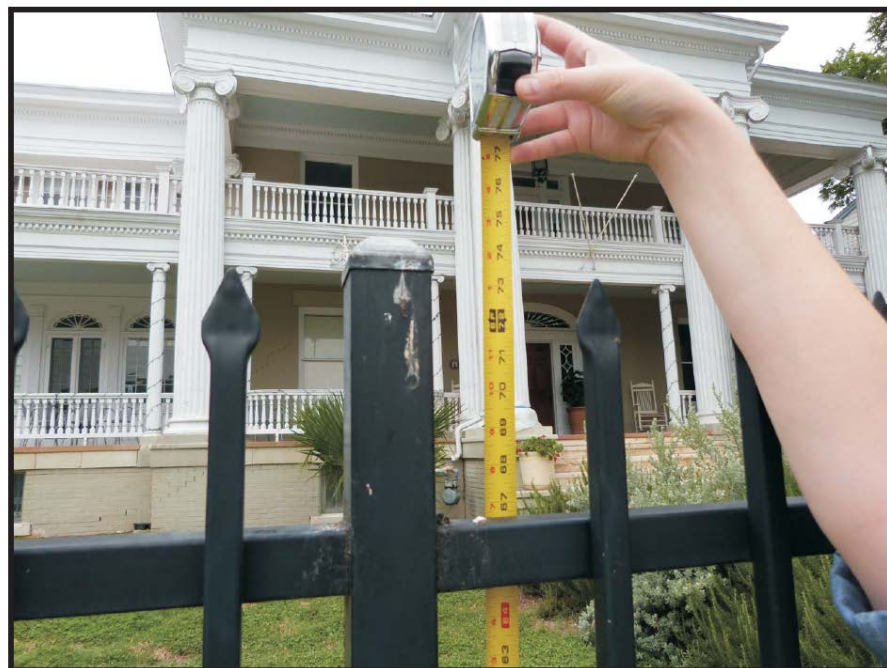


5'-9 3/4" (69-3/4")



1806 Rio Grande Street

Pope - Watson House



6'-1" (73")



1803 West Avenue

Denny - Holliday House



7'-1" (85")



611 W. 22nd Street

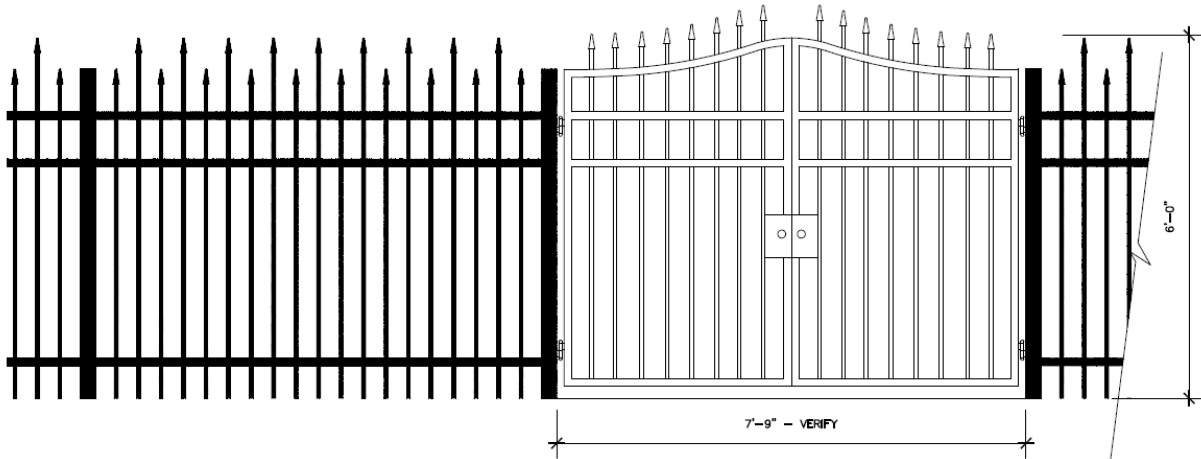
Kenny House



5'-4½" (64.5") Fence Ht. at inside of fence



Inside of fence is two risers down to grade



PROPOSED GATE DESIGN

NOTE: GATE WILL BE SAME COLOR AS FENCE, A DARK BRONZE. SHOWN IN OUTLINE ON DRAWING TO DISTINGUISH FROM FENCE.

NOT TO SCALE